

Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 EUR-12 AF-08 IO-13

AID-05 /104 W

----- 068066

R 112028Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9161

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1207

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, BB, TD

SUBJECT: TRINIDAD EDITORIAL COMMENT ON BARBADOS
DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) BRIDGETOWN 835, (B) KINGSTON 1876, (C) PORT OF
SPAIN 1206

1. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO DIRECT EDITORIAL COMMENT IN
PORT OF SPAIN ON BARBADIAN PRIME MINISTER BARROW'S WIDELY
REPORTED STATEMENTS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES MAY 6 AND SUB-
SEQUENTLY, THE INFLUENTIAL INDEPENDENT DAILY "EXPRESS"
SOMEWHAT POINTEDLY PICKED MAY 7 TO EDITORIALIZE AGAINST
BARROW'S CIVIL AVIATION PRETENSIONS. UNDER THE HEADLINE:
"WILL YOU FLY BWIA NOW, MR. BARROW?", THE EDITORIAL LABELS
BARBADIAN EFFORTS TO PAWN OFF ICA AS A NATIONAL CARRIER AS
"A LESSON FOR THE WHOLE WEST INDIES ABOUT THE DANGERS OF
EXCESSIVE INSULARITY". FURTHER QUOTES FOLLOW:

2. THE EXPRESS STATES: "WHAT A PITY IT IS THAT BARBADOS
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HAD TO GO TO SUCH A EMBARRASSING EXTENT TO FORM A

'NATIONAL" AIRLINE, ONLY TO BE HUMILIATINGLY PUT IN ITS PLACE BY THE AMERICAN CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD." SUGGESTING THAT BARBADOS SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONTENT AS A SMALL, POOR COUNTRY TO USE EXISTING AIRLINES, ESPECIALLY BWIA, "WHICH HAS SOME JUSTIFIABLE CLAIM TO BE THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AIR CARRIER", THE PAPER ACCUSES BARROW OF INSTEAD SETTING UP A "SHELL CORPORATION" WHICH ON THE SURFACE WAS CONTROLLED BY THE BARBADOS GOVERNMENT, ONLY TO HAVE THE WHOLE STORY EXPOSED BY THE CAB. THE EDITORIAL REPORTS THAT LAKER AIRWAYS OF THE UK REALLY CONTROLS ICA, OWNING MOST OF THE STAFF AND ALL OF THE ASSETS, AND THAT BARBADOS IS A MERE DUMMY PARTNER, A ROLE WHICH THE PAPER DESCRIBED AS "UNPRINCIPLED", AND AN ARRANGEMENT MERELY "TO PULL THE WOOL OVER THE EYES OF THE SS AUTHORITIES". THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT BARROW HAS BEEN LOUDLY INSISTENT ON FULL DISCLOSURE OF THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF BWIA, WHEREAS APARENTLY HIS OWN DEALINGS WITH LAKER AND ICA "COULD NOT EVEN BEAR THE MOST CASUAL SCRUTINY".

3. COMMENT: EVEN ACCEPTING THE ACUTE RIVALRY WHICH HAS BEEN DEVELOPING IN THE CIVIL AVIATION FIELD OVER BARROW'S DETERMINATION TO LAUNCH AN INTERNATIONAL BARBADIAN AIRLINE, WE FIND THE TONE OF THIS EDITORIAL NOTEWORTHY AT A TIME BARROW HAS LAUNCHED AN ANTI-US CAMPAIGN. THE TRINIDAD EXPRESS SEEMS TO BE SAYING THAT THE USG HAS DEALT FAIRLY WITH BARBADOS AND THAT IT IS THE BARBADIAN EFFORT TO CREATE A SUBTERFUGE WHICH IS BEHIND THE PROBLEM. THIS IS A FAR CRY FROM "DESTABILIZATION" AND SHOULD ALSO BE READ IN CONNECTION WITH THE LATER EDITORIAL IN THE EXPRESS REPORTED IN REF (C) WHICH NOTED THE DANGER OF THE GUYANESE TOYING WITH CUBA.
FAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CIVIL AVIATION, AIR TRANSPORTATION, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTO01207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760182-0714
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760568/aaaacfuj.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BRIDGETOWN 835, 76 KINGSTON 1876
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRINIDAD EDITORIAL COMMENT ON BARBADOS DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, BB, TD, (BARROW, ERROL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006